

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Bryant Products, Inc.) CONSENT ORDER NO. 17-____-CAP
Bayou La Batre, Mobile County, Alabama)
)

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter, “the Department” and/or “ADEM”) and Bryant Products, Inc. (hereinafter, “Bryant”), pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code, §§22-22A-1 through 22-22A-16, (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§22-28-1 to 22-28-23 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. Bryant owns and operates a fish smoking and curing facility (hereinafter, the “Facility”) located in Bayou La Batre, Mobile County, Alabama.
2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).
3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n) (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Department is the state air pollution control agency for the purposes of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).

4. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 states that “....open burning must take place on the property on which the combustible fuel originates.”

5. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(d) states that “Permission to open burn under the provision of this paragraph is revoked during the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October in Baldwin, DeKalb, Etowah, Jefferson, Lawrence, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Russell, Shelby, and Talladega Counties.

DEPARTMENT’S CONTENTIONS

6. On August 4, 2016, a Department Inspector observed illegal open burning being conducted at the Facility and upon inspection of the Facility, noted that untreated wood pallets were being burned. The Department Inspector explained the requirements of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01 to Bryant representative, Ms. Jan Isham (hereinafter, “Isham”) and she stated that she was unaware that open burning was not an approved disposal method. Isham stated that she would instruct Bryant employees to discontinue open burning as a means of disposal and to properly dispose of the burn pile. Based on the inspection, Bryant was illegally open burning in violation of ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 and 335-3-3-.01(2)(d).

7. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation, including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent and degree of success of such person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority

shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: Bryant conducted illegal open burning and did so during the burn ban. The Department considers these violations to be serious.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: There appeared to be no care taken by Bryant to comply with the applicable requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 and 335-3-3-.01(2)(d).

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: Bryant likely derived an economic benefit by not legally disposing of debris and garbage.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: There were no efforts by Bryant to mitigate possible effects of these violations upon the environment.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Bryant has no previous history of violations for illegal open burning with the Department.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Bryant has alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty and the Department has taken this into consideration.

G. OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Special Order by Consent is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has compromised the amount of the penalty to resolve this matter amicably without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation.

8. The Department has carefully considered the six statutory penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., as amended, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement, and has concluded that a civil penalty herein is appropriate (*See* “Attachment A”, which is hereby incorporated into these Findings).

9. The Department neither admits nor denies Bryant’s contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without unwarranted expenditure of State resources in prosecuting the above violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

BRYANT’S CONTENTIONS

10. Bryant neither admits nor denies the Department’s contentions. Bryant consents to abide by the terms of this Consent Order and pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

THEREFORE, Bryant, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the compliance issues cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., as amended, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement and has determined that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged

herein. Therefore, the Department and Bryant agree to enter into this Consent Order with the following terms and conditions:

A. Bryant agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00 in settlement of the violations cited herein. Failure to pay the civil penalty within the specified timeframe after the issuance of this Consent Order may result in the Department filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the unpaid civil penalty.

B. Bryant agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Consent Order shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

C. Bryant agrees that, immediately upon the effective date of this Consent Order and continuing thereafter, Bryant shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1, 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4, and 335-3-3-.01(2)(d).

D. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

E. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these presents and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Consent Order is intended to operate as a full resolution of the alleged violations and/or deviations which are cited in this Consent Order.

F. Bryant agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

G. For purposes of this Consent Order only, Bryant agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County. Bryant also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, Bryant shall be limited to the defenses of *Force Majeure*, compliance with this Agreement and physical impossibility. A *Force Majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes that are not foreseeable and are beyond the reasonable control of Bryant, including his contractors and consultants, which could not be overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes which could have been overcome or avoided by the exercise of due diligence will not be considered to have been beyond the reasonable control of Bryant) and which delays or prevents performance by a date required by the Consent Order. Events such as unanticipated or increase costs of performance, changed economic circumstances, normal precipitation events, or failure to obtain federal, state, or local permits shall not constitute *Force Majeure*. Any request for a modification of a deadline must be accompanied by the reasons (including documentation) for each extension and the proposed extension time. This information shall be submitted to the Department a minimum of ten working days prior to the original anticipated completion date. If the Department, after review of the extension request, finds the work was delayed because of conditions beyond the control and without the fault of Bryant, the Department may extend the time as justified by the

circumstances. The Department may also grant any other additional time extension as justified by the circumstances, but it is not obligated to do so.

H. The Department and Bryant agree that the sole purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances reference herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future concerning illegal open burning which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, then such future violations may be addressed in Orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate, and Bryant shall not object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Consent Order if future orders, litigation, or other enforcement action addresses new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

I. The Department and Bryant agree that this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and Bryant does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of the same.

J. The Department and Bryant agree that this Order shall not affect its obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. The Department and Bryant agree that final approval and entry into this Order are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed Orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the Order.

L. The Department and Bryant agree that, should any provision of this Order be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management

Commission to be inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

M. The Department and Bryant agree that any modifications of this Order must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

N. The Department and Bryant agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve Bryant of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

BRYANT PRODUCTS, INC.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Glen Bryant
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

Glen Bryant
(Printed Name)

President
(Printed Title)

10-31-16
(Date)

(Date Executed)

ATTACHMENT A

Bryant Products, Inc. Bayou La Batre, Mobile County

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Illegal open burning	1	\$1,000	\$500	\$0	
Burning during the burn ban	1	\$1,000	\$500		Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$3,000

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty	
Mitigating Factors (-)	
Ability to Pay (-)	\$2,000
Other Factors (+/-)	
Total Adjustments (-) <i>Enter at Right</i>	\$2,000

Economic Benefit (+)	\$1,000
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$4,000
Total Adjustments (-)	\$2,000
FINAL PENALTY	\$2,000.00

Footnotes

* See the "Department's Contentions" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.